

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING DIVINE STRAKE**

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Gene Davis**

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor expresses opposition to the Divine Strake explosive test to be conducted in Nevada in 2007.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

► expresses opposition to the Divine Strake high-explosive test to be conducted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at the United States Department of Energy Nevada Test Site in 2007.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, "Divine Strake" is the code name for a large high-explosive test to be conducted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency;

WHEREAS, the Pentagon has stated the purpose of the test is to "determine the potential for

30 future non-nuclear concepts," such as high-energy weapons or the simultaneous use of multiple  
31 conventional bombs to destroy deeply buried and fortified military targets, as an alternative to  
32 detonating a nuclear device;

33 WHEREAS, the test was originally planned to take place June 2, 2006 at the site of an  
34 existing underground tunnel in the United States Department of Energy Nevada Test Site, but was  
35 postponed several times due to legal action, then later delayed until 2007;

36 WHEREAS, the test is scheduled to utilize 700 tons of an ammonium nitrate combined with  
37 fuel oil explosive, which is equivalent to 593 tons of TNT;

38 WHEREAS, there is concern that the explosion could stir up nuclear particles, left from  
39 previous tests conducted decades earlier at the Nevada test site, into the atmosphere;

40 WHEREAS, in December 2006, the revision to the Environmental Assessment was released,  
41 and although the study concluded that there are no health risks to persons outside the blast area, it  
42 stated, "Since suspended natural radionuclides and resuspended fallout radionuclides from the  
43 detonation have potential to be transported off of the NTS by wind, they may contribute a  
44 radiological dose to the public";

45 WHEREAS, on January 22, 2006, the Washington County Commission issued a statement  
46 opposing the federal government's plan to conduct the test which reads in part, "The City of St.  
47 George has a unique history due to its proximity to the Nevada Nuclear Test Site during the atomic  
48 age . . . thousands of early deaths of those living in southern Utah and the surrounding areas have  
49 been attributed to nuclear testing during the 1950s and 1960s at the site. Many St. George residents  
50 and others have suffered incalculable loss as a result of radioactive fallout exposure from the  
51 detonations at the site";

52 WHEREAS, the Commission added, "To assure the safety and well-being of our citizenry,  
53 these concerns must be carefully studied and evaluated before a decision is made to proceed with the  
54 proposed detonation"; and

55 WHEREAS, much more needs to be done to assure that there is never a repeat of the

56 immense suffering endured by citizens of Utah and nearby states due to the nuclear fallout from past  
57 tests at the Nevada Test Site:

58       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
59 Governor concurring therein, express opposition to the Divine Strake high-explosive test to be  
60 conducted by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency at the United States Department of Energy  
61 Nevada Test Site in 2007.

62       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Defense Threat  
63 Reduction Agency, the United States Department of Defense, the United States Department of  
64 Energy Nevada Test Site, the Washington County Commission, and to the members of Utah's  
65 congressional delegation.

# Official Signature Sheet for Bills and Resolutions State of Utah



S.C.R. 5 was read  
by title three separate times and passed the Senate on a vote of  
26 yeas 0 nays and 3 absent.

Signed on 2/15/2007  
Certified by Garnette B. Moore  
Secretary of the Senate

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John L. Valentine  
President of the Senate  
☐ President Pro Tempore



S.C.R. 5 was read  
by title three separate times and passed the House on a vote of  
69 yeas 0 nays and 6 absent.

Signed on 2/15/2007  
Certified by Jandy L. Jerrey  
Chief Clerk of the House

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[Signature]  
Speaker of the House  
☐ Speaker Pro Tempore



Received from the Legislature on 2-21-07  
Approved on 2-22-07

Received from the Governor and filed in the office of the Lieutenant  
Governor on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lieutenant Governor

Jon M. Huntsman Jr.  
Governor